

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01779 080848Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
OES-07 AID-05 HEW-04 SNM-02 /051 W  
-----014035 080908Z /23  
P 080809Z OCT 77  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5098

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1779

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BOURNE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OTRA, TBIO, PGOV, IZ, US  
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF IRAQI HEALTH MINISTER

REF: BAGHDAD 1767

1. DR. ALIM HASSOUN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
TECHNICAL AFFAIRS AT MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND A MEMBER  
OF HEALTH MINISTER'S PARTY FOR TRIP TO U.S. (REFTEL)  
INFORMS ME THAT HEALTH MINISTER DOES NOT PLAN TO STAY  
IN WASHINGTON LONG ENOUGH FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH USG  
OFFICIALS. DR. HASSOUN SAID HE AND MINISTER HAD  
DISCUSSED AT LENGTH POSSIBILITY OF TRYING TO SEE  
DR. BOURNE WHILE IN U.S., BUT HEALTH MINISTER'S  
VERY CROWDED SCHEDULE WOULD NOT ALLOW IT. DR. HASSOUN  
SAID MINISTER HOPED THAT BOURNE AND COLLEAGUES COULD  
VISIT IRAQ SOMETIME AFTER FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER.

2. I TOLD HASSOUN THAT I WOULD PASS ON HEALTH  
MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR A NEW DATE FOR MEETINGS IN  
IRAQ BUT ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTY IN COMING UP WITH  
NEW SCHEDULE FOR THESE HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS.

3. COMMENT: DR. HASSOUN WAS EXCEPTIONALLY VAGUE  
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ABOUT PURPOSE OF HEALTH MINISTER'S VISIT TO U.S.  
AND NATURE OF HIS ITINERARY ("DETROIT, LOS ANGELES  
AND OTHER CITIES"). WE HAVE NOW ISSUED VISA TO  
MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH,  
DR. MUHAMMAD SADIQ, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HEALTH  
MINISTER ON HIS U.S. TOUR. SINCE IRAQI MEDICAL  
SCHOOLS ARE SADIQ'S RESPONSIBILITY, IT IS PROBABLYE

THAT RECRUITMENT OF ARAB-AMERICANS TO TEACH ON  
MEDICAL FACULTIES IS A HIGH PRIORITY. REGIME HAS  
RECENTLY DECREED THAT MEMBERS OF ALL UNIVERSITY  
FACULTIES MUST DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO UNIVERSITY WORK  
ON FULLTIME BASIS AND CEASE OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES,  
SUCH AS PRIVATE PRACTICE, BY WHICH THEY HAD SUPPLEMENTED  
SALARIES. RESULT, ACCORDING TO ONE DOCTOR FRIEND  
WHO TEACHES AT UNIVERSITY OF BAGHDAD MEDICAL  
FACULTY, HAS BEEN SEVERE ATTRITION FROM MEDICAL  
FACULTIES.  
MACK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEALTH, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** OTRA, TBIO, PGOV, IZ, US, (HUSAYN, RIYAD IBRAHIM)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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